



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE  
National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration  
NATIONAL MARINE FISHERIES SERVICE  
Silver Spring, MD 20910

## NMFS EXTENDS THE PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD FOR THE DRAFT CONSOLIDATED HMS FMP AND RESCHEDULES THE AP MEETING

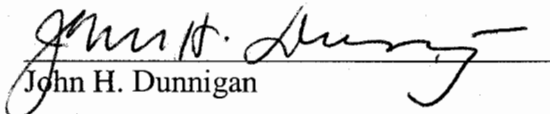
Due to the cancellation of three public hearings because of hurricanes, and the extended recovery period needed for the Gulf region constituents from these hurricanes, the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) is extending the comment period on the draft Consolidated Highly Migratory Species (HMS) Fishery Management Plan (FMP) and its proposed rule that published on August 19, 2005 (70 FR 48804). The comment period was originally scheduled to conclude on October 18, 2005. **NMFS is now extending the comment period to 5 p.m. on March 1, 2006.** NMFS intends to reschedule the public hearings that were cancelled in New Orleans, LA, Orange Beach, AL, and Key West, FL, at a later date and will publish the dates, times, and locations of those hearings in the Federal Register. NMFS is extending the public comment period to incorporate these rescheduled hearings during the public comment period and to provide adequate opportunities for public comment by constituents.

NMFS has also cancelled the October 11-13, 2005, HMS and Billfish Advisory Panels (AP) meeting, and rescheduled the meeting for February 21-23, 2006. The AP meeting will still be held at the Holiday Inn, 8777 Georgia Avenue (Rt. 97), Silver Spring, MD 20910. **The rescheduled AP meeting will be held from 1 p.m. to 5 p.m. on Tuesday, February 21, 2006, from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. on Wednesday, February 22, 2006, and from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. on Thursday, February 23, 2006.** The intent of this meeting is to consider alternatives for the conservation and management of HMS as presented in the draft Consolidated HMS FMP and its proposed rule.

Please contact Ms. Heather Stirratt, Highly Migratory Species Management Division, 1315 East-West Highway, Silver Spring, MD 20910, 301-713-2347, for meeting logistics or materials. For information on the draft Consolidated HMS FMP, contact Ms. Karyl Brewster-Geisz at the same address and phone number.

This meeting is physically accessible to people with disabilities. Requests for sign language interpretation or other auxiliary aids should be directed to Ms. Othel Freeman, Highly Migratory Species Management Division, 1315 East-West Highway, Silver Spring, MD 20910, 301-713-2347, at least 7 days prior to the meeting.

This FAX notice is a courtesy to Atlantic HMS Fisheries interests to keep you informed about your fishery. Official notice of Federal fishery actions is made through filing such notice with the Office of the Federal Register.

  
John H. Dunnigan

9/30/05  
Date



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